



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

September 23, 2005

The Honorable Richard F. "Ric" Williamson  
Chairman  
Texas Transportation Commission  
125 East 11th Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

RE: Hurricane Rita – Waiver for Motor Carriers

Dear Chairman Williamson:

To accompany my September 20, 2005 State Disaster Proclamation for Hurricane Rita, I am issuing this letter to provide guidance to the commercial motor carriers that will be involved in disaster relief or economic recovery efforts following the Hurricane Rita event.

I direct the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to suspend all oversize/overweight permitting requirements and fees for motor carriers involved in relief efforts, with the exception of exceeding posted weight limits on bridges. Carriers moving loads that exceed 14' high will be required to contact TxDOT's Motor Carrier Division at 512/465-3592 between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. If calling after hours, please call 512/658-1149.

I direct the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to suspend all size and weight enforcement for motor carriers involved in relief efforts.

I direct that all requirements concerning Motor Carrier Registration, Single State Registration, the International Registration Plan, and International Fuel Tax Agreement be suspended for motor carriers traveling within or into Texas to assist with relief efforts. I am also suspending the requirements regarding the purchase of trip permits for registration and fuel for commercial motor carriers engaged in interstate disaster relief efforts.

Hours of service limitations are temporarily suspended for carriers involved in evacuation and recovery efforts. Also carriers not directly involved in evacuation and recovery efforts that were caught in evacuation traffic are excused from hours of service overages noted in their logbook.

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Insurance, commercial driver's license, and safety requirements associated with the above mentioned permits, registration, and programs are not suspended and remain in effect. Motor carriers traveling into or within Texas must, at the minimum, have liability insurance at limits required by Texas or their home state.

I ask all Texas law enforcement and other federal and state officials to honor this letter as a blanket permit issued to commercial motor carriers for the purpose of Hurricane Rita disaster relief or economic recovery efforts.

This waiver will be in effect until October 31, 2005, unless extended or repealed.

Thank you for your cooperation

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The first name "Rick" is written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Perry".

Rick Perry  
Governor

RP:khp

cc: The Honorable Carole Keeton Strayhorn  
Ms. Colleen McHugh, Chairman, Public Safety Commission